REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

OF THE

Town of Scarborough

MAINE

FOR THE YEAR

1924-25

PORTLAND, ME.:
MARKS PRINTING HOUSE
1925

REPORT OF THE
Superintendent of Schools.

To the Citizens of Scarborough:

Two problems of housing and equipment of our schools demand the attention of the citizens of Scarborough this year. The first is relief of the congestion in the high school and the Oak Hill grammar and primary schools; the second is improvement of the plant of the Blue Point school.

Need for a New Building at Oak Hill.

The enrollment of the high school during the coming year promises to be over 70 pupils. The enrollment of the Oak Hill primary and grammar rooms seems likely to be between 85 and 95 pupils. This combined situation will require more room for all the schools now located in the Oak Hill building.

In these reports for several years, your Superintendent has expressed his belief that a new building should be constructed at a place somewhere along the electric railroad line, which would house all of the pupils from grade seven through the high school, grouping these pupils in the junior-senior high school, or so-called 6-3-3 plan. There have been no developments in the field of education to lead him to recede from his belief that this would be the best educational arrangement for Scarborough. However, we now face, not what would be best over a period of years, but rather a situation where something must be done at once. In view of this, and in view of the fact that seemingly such a plan is not favored as yet by a majority of the voters, it seems better to propose a plan which is likely to gain support and which will provide relief without delay. Therefore, it is recommended

that the town obtain a suitable site and erect a building of three rooms to house elementary school pupils at Oak Hill. Such a building would allow one room for grades one and two, another for grades three and four, and a third for grades five and six. Grades seven and eight would be left in the present building. This arrangement would probably provide adequate housing to care for the growth in the present and immediately future years. Probably for the first year, or perhaps two, it would be necessary to use only two of these rooms, one for grades one-three, inclusive; and one for grades four-six, inclusive. The third room could be used for a health room for lunches and for special activities.

Removing the first six grades from the present building would leave one room into which the high school could expand. Leaving the seventh and eighth grades in the present building, would make it possible for the teachers of those grades and of the high school to departmentalize their work, so that some of the best advantages of the junior high school plan might be obtained, and the pupils, on entering the high school work, would be somewhat acquainted with it and better prepared to achieve success. Thus this plan would allow for a trial of the junior high school organization, and a comparatively small number in the seventh and eighth grade room would allow pupils to enter, if they desired, from other schools in order to obtain the better preparation for high school. Several pupils from the districts of other schools have voluntarily taken advantage of such an opportunity for better graded work this year.

Need for a New Building at Blue Point.

At Blue Point, while the group is rather large, the problem is proper housing rather than congestion. The present building is old. To standardize it would require extensive improvements. Some such improvements, especially in re-

gard to sanitation, cannot be made without great expense, owing to the fact that the building rests on solid rock. The location of the building at the very edge of an extensively traveled road makes the danger of accident unnecessarily great. For these reasons it is recommended that the present school and site at Blue Point be abandoned and that on a new site a new building be erected as soon as possible.

The plant at Pine Point is not ideal, although not in need of immediate extensive repair or change. It seems worth while to point out that while a change is being made at Blue Point, if Blue Point and Pine Point communities would agree to use a single plant on a mutually agreeable site, it would be possible to erect a two-room building for the use of the Blue Point and Pine Point pupils. This would make possible a division of the grades and result in considerably greater efficiency of learning for each individual pupil.

The question is frequently asked, "Can a one-room rural school adequately prepare one for success in higher education?" Our rural schools are among the best in the State. This is admitted by the State Board of Education. We make no apology for the work which they are now doing. In spite of this, however, it should be frankly admitted that, owing to the increased educational demands of high school and college, the preparation given by one teacher who has to teach work of the entire eight grades is likely to be an inadequate basis for future education. For that reason, while there is no attempt to force consolidation, parents are urged, whenever possible, to send their children to those schools which allow for more division of grades. As indicated above, several parents have made such a choice in the case of Oak Hill and Dunstan.

The Past Year.

SCHOLARSHIP.

During the past year the instruction in the schools has been maintained at a high standard. Scarborough has reason to be proud of the splendid improvement of instruction and morale in the high school through the efforts of Principal Bessey and his able corps of teachers. The school remains on the approved list of New England College Entrance Certificate Board. Twelve of our graduates are now in colleges and higher institutions of learning. Two of our graduates graduated from Bates College last June with high honors. All citizens are urged to read the report of Principal Bessey which accompanies this report.

In the elementary schools the work has been no less pleasing. Our teachers are recognized as among the best in the State and should be at all times adequately paid. Letters submitted by Scarborough pupils to the Portland Chapter of American Red Cross for international correspondence have created a good impression of the town's educational system.

HEALTH.

Believing, as indicated in previous reports, that health training is one of the most important responsibilities of the school system, we have taken advantage of three rather remarkable and beneficial opportunities to intensify and expand our health work.

The first was the opportunity to have a nurse, Miss Mary G. Price, working in our schools through the co-operation of the Cumberland County Health Association. Miss Price and Dr. Wentworth, who have shown splendid ability and co-operation in working out a worth-while health program, have examined 379 pupils enrolled in thirteen schools. Of these pupils, 303 were found to have some physical defect.

Defective teeth included 225 pupils and defective vision included 68. Eighty-two pupils had enlarged tonsils and 61 were ten per cent. or more underweight. These major figures from the report of the nurse show the need for this work. The fact that 126 pupils showed correction of last year's defects indicates the co-operation of the parents in the interest of their own children and the value of the work.

The second pleasing development was the work of a nutrition class, organized in connection with the nutrition institute held by Dr. W. R. P. Emerson, the noted expert in the health of children, held in Portland. Scarborough fortunately was selected to recruit a class showing the value of nutrition in rural schools. The gains made were pleasing and the co-operation shown by the parents was even more gratifying.

The third intensification of our health work was the dental clinics in the Libby and North Scarborough schools, again possible through the co-operation of the Cumberland County Health Association and the financial backing of parents and the Scarborough Branch of the American Red Cross. Of the 52 pupils in these schools, 38 were found to have defective teeth. Twenty-seven children received treatment, each child having a consent card signed by the parents. The treatments given were valued at $239.00, but the charge was $75.00, all of which was met with no expense to the town. The work was so successful that in two other Scarborough schools a similar clinic is asked for as soon as possible.

SERVICE.

Training in citizenship and service is one of our most important educational aims. The out-of-school achievements of our pupils this year have been making a good impression and furnishing excellent training. In our club work we have had four county champions, in sewing, housekeeping, raising corn and raising pigs. Two of our girls were chosen

to go to the Eastern States Exposition at Springfield, Mass., to demonstrate bread making, and one of our girls was the state champion in housekeeping.

Other students have learned the value of service through the sale of Christmas seals, the activities of the Junior Red Cross, and the Cumberland County Y. M. C. A.

Perhaps the most pleasing feature of these activities have been that they represent real co-operation; we help the organizations and they help us. They have been of great benefit to a large group of boys and girls.

STANDARDIZATION AND REPAIRS

Our schools at Beech Ridge and Black Point have been completely standardized as to sanitation. Three school buildings have been shingled and two have been painted on the outside. Other needs have been met as they appeared. It will be noted from a study of our financial report that our fixed charges, such as lighting, water, insurance, upkeep, etc., are at present an amount equal to the total appropriations of a few years ago for school supplies and repairs. While no one likes extra expense, this situation is an indicator of the better conditions under which our children spend a good part of their waking hours and reflects credit on the town.

Necessary repairs must, of course, be made as they become necessary. Our standardization program, however, has reached a point where this year it can stand by and give right of way to the two major proposals recommended at the beginning of this report.

Consolidation.

The value of the consolidated school has been discussed in the consideration of the value of education in a single room rural school. The fact that some parents are taking advantage of a voluntary consolidation by sending their children

to schools where there are two elementary groupings has also been noted.

It is interesting to note that the State Grange, a body which is conservative and carefully considers matters before approving them, gave at its annual session an endorsement to the consolidation of schools.

While a moderate amount of consolidation is earnestly recommended, relieving the load now carried by several of our rural schools, we are absolutely in favor of a continued development of our rural schools as already established wherever the number of pupils warrants.

In justice to pupils living at long distances from schools, it may be that aid in the matter of transportation will follow the development of consolidation of upper grades.

The Heart of School Progress.

Progress in our educational program can come only when each citizen does his part in regard to the schools.

Your Board of Education has shown at all times readiness to support progressive school policies. Members have also individually made considerable personal effort in advancing the improvement of our school buildings. As your representatives, they have fulfilled their obligations with care, judgment and enthusiasm.

It is the duty of every citizen, as appreciation of the efforts of the Board and assistance to the Board, to become more acquainted with what is going on in the schools.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. B. Heald,
Superintendent of Schools.

REPORT OF HIGH SCHOOL.

To Superintendent F. H. B. Heald:

I herewith submit my fourth annual report as principal of Scarborough High School.

Our enrollment this year shows an increase over that of the last few years, twenty-seven boys and thirty-nine girls being enrolled as pupils. The attendance has been unusually good during the first half-year, there being a ninety-eight per cent. attendance during the fall term. The following pupils have not been absent or tardy: Myrtle Hanscom, Maurice Plowman, Max Emmons, Walter Nielsen, Walter Sargent, Amy Willman, Ruth Hodgman, Elizabeth Knight, Elinor Lary, Hazel Morse, Emma Olesen, Norman Thurston, Ada Wentworth, Ira Milliken, Lucretia Mitchell, Alma Nielsen, Mary Pedersen, Gertrude Soule, Constance Higgins, Stanley Hillock, Ralph Larfano, Dagma Olesen, Henrietta Meserve and Gerald Pillsbury.

At the beginning of the school year a change was made in our daily schedule of studies, our present schedule consisting of seven periods of forty minutes each, instead of the former eight periods of thirty-five minutes each. I believe that better work is being accomplished under the new plan, as the extra time enables the teachers to cover the required work more completely and thoroughly.

Club work is proving more popular each year among the high school pupils and already clubs have been organized for the coming year, consisting of projects in sewing, canning, cooking, poultry raising, pig raising and gardening. Although this work is not a part of the regular curriculum, the projects are carried on under the supervision and leadership of the teachers, and all agree that they are receiving much practical benefit from them.

Physical examinations have been given to each student by our school physician, Dr. B. F. Wentworth, and our county health nurse, Miss Price. During the fall term a ten-minute period was devoted each day to physical exercises. The school was also represented by a cross-country team in several meets. Nearly one-half of the pupils are now members of either the boys' or the girls' basketball squads. Both basketball teams are meeting with fine success and have won several well-earned victories, the boys' team having lost only two games during the last two years. The high school appreciates very much the kind spirit which prompts the citizens of Scarborough to grant the free use of the town hall for athletic purposes.

Scarborough High School still retains the certification privilege of entering students to nearly all the New England colleges without examination.

I believe that a very vital problem in education is confronting the citizens of Scarborough today and that they are in duty bound to find a solution for this problem in the near future. It is the question of providing more room for the pupils in the Oak Hill school. We have nearly reached the limit of our efficiency as a secondary school system, particularly in the development of our extra-curricula activities, owing to the extremely congested conditions under which we have to work. We are now making use of practically every facility at our disposal. The dressing rooms are overcrowded. Every seat in the three rooms comprising the high school has been occupied this year, and, during many of our recitations, pupils have to sit together, a condition which is not beneficial to the pupil and makes the problems of discipline harder for the teacher. We have discontinued the noon lunch, since it is not consistent with the rules governing good health and proper sanitation to prepare and serve a

meal in a small room where, at the same time, pupils are sitting and studying.

We are especially in need of more room for a library. A library is as essential to a high school as a science laboratory, and particularly so in Scarborough, since the nearest access which we have to good reference works is the Portland Public Library. We have not added to our school library this year, as we have no more room to properly case our books and magazines.

I am looking forward to the time when the room needed may be at our disposal and when the junior-senior high plan of instruction may be adopted—a plan which is probably the most significant development in our public school organization in recent years, and which has been recommended and endorsed to the citizens of Scarborough by our Superintendent of Schools in his annual report of 1923.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Superintendent and the Board of Education for their co-operation in the administration of my duties.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwood G. Bessey.

School Statistics.

School.	1924. Winter Term.			1924. Spring Term.			1924. Fall Term.		
	Length in Weeks.	Registration.	Average Attendance.	Length in Weeks.	Registration.	Average Attendance.	Length in Weeks.	Registration.	Average Attendance.
Scarborough High	12	55	52.7	10+	54	53.8	14	66	62.7
Oak Hill Grammar	12	27	23+	10+	32	30.6	14	38	34+
Oak Hill Primary	12	37	30+	10+	42	37+	14	50	41+
Dunstan Grammar	12	16	13.8	10+	19	16.5	14	18	16.8
Dunstan Primary	12	22	18.9	10+	22	18.9	14	27	25+
Black Point School	12	27	22+	10+	25	22+	14	27	21+
Blue Point School	12	25	23+	10+	23	22	14	31	27+
Beech Ridge School	12	15	12.9	10+	17	9.9	14	12	11+
Beech Hill School	12	25	21+	10+	29	24.7	14	34	28+
Libby School	11½	24	21+	10½+	27	21+	14	33	29+
No. Scarborough Sch'l	12	20	17.5	10+	22	20+	14	19	17.9+
Pine PointSchool	12	39	35.7	10+	39	35.7	14	35	32+
Broad Turn School	12	12	9.9	10+	12	11+	14	13	11.8+

Roster of Teachers in Service at Present Time.

Name.	Teaching Experience.	Professional Training.
Elwood G. Bessey*	12½	Bates College, A. B. Gray's Business College Officers' Training School Summer Course, Bates College
Frances Bryant Libbey*	11½	Bates College, A. B. Summer Course, Bates College
Florence Wakefield Boyle*	3½	Smith College Summer Course, Boston University
Lida E. Libby*†	34½	Graduate of Gorham Normal School
Laura J. Milliken*	29½	Graduate of Gorham Normal School
Lena M. Sherman*	12½	Summer Courses, Gorham Normal and Farmington Normal Schools Special Professional Course, Castine
Florence S. Baker	13½	Partial Course, Boston Teachers' Training School Summer Course, Gorham Normal School
Leona F. Boothman*‡	6½	Summer Courses, Gorham Normal and Farmington Normal Schools Special Professional Course, Castine
Leah G. Burnett	1½	Summer Courses, Gorham Normal School
Edith S. Kane*‡	6	Graduate of Castine Normal School
Ethelyn M. Walls	5½	Graduate, Farmington Normal School Summer Course, 1918, Castine Normal School Two years, training teacher, Farmington Normal School One semester, College Course for Teachers, University of Pennsylvania
Florence Walker Hearn	4	Summer Course, Gorham Normal School
Helen R. Page‡	½	Graduate of Castine Normal School
Doris B. Purdy	½	Graduate of Castine Normal School
Florence W. Stuart*‡	½	Graduate of Gorham Normal School

*Active member of National Education Association.

†Formerly Superintendent of Schools.

‡Hot noon lunch is supervised by teacher.

Financial Statement.

COMMON SCHOOL ACCOUNT.

RESOURCES.

1924.			
Mar. 3.	Local taxation,	$10,000 00	
Dec.	State,	3,589 90	
			$13,589 90

EXPENDITURES.

Overdraft, fiscal year 1923-1924,		$ 114 87	
Scarborough teachers' wages to date, ending Feb. 14, 1925,		9,964 00	
Fuel,		1,406 21	
Janitors' services,		791 68	
Conveyance:			
Scottow's Hill pupils,		556 80	
Union school:			
Proportional part of teachers' wages,	$403 53		
Proportional part of janitors' services,	12 06		
Fuel,	25 50		
		441 09	
			$13,274 65
Balance,			$315 25

HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNT.

1924.			
Mar. 3.	Local taxation,	$5,400 00	
Dec.	State,	409 84	
			$5,809 84

Expenditures.

Teachers' wages to date, ending Feb. 14, 1925,	$5,372 16	
Janitor's services to date, ending Feb. 14, 1925,	216 00	
Fuel to date, ending Feb. 14, 1925,	221 68	
		$5,809 84

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

Resources.

1924.	
Mar. 3. Local taxation,	$100 00

Expenditures.

Fiscal year 1924-1925,	$72 75
	$27 25

TEXT BOOKS.

Resources.

1924.		
Mar. 3. Local taxation,	$500 00	
Transferred from appliance account,	11 05	
		$511 05

Expenditures.

Fiscal year 1924-1925:		
Common schools,	$330 94	
High school,	180 11	
		$511 05

SUPPLIES, APPARATUS, APLLIANCES ACCOUNT.

Resources.

1924.		
Mar. 3. Local taxation,	$500 00	
Transferred to book account,	11 05	
		$488 95

EXPENDITURES.

Fiscal year 1924-1925:		
Common schools,	$196 92	
High school,	74 44	
		$271 36
Balance,		$217 59

SCHOOLHOUSE SUPPLIES AND REPAIRS.

RESOURCES.

1924.		
Mar. 3. Local taxation,	$2,500 00	
Plummer's Insurance Agency,	75 00	
		$2,575 00

EXPENDITURES.

Fiscal Year, 1924-1925.

High school:			
Insurance on school building and equipment,	$70 00		
Electric lighting, approx.,	9 00		
Upkeep of school building,	86 64		
		$165 64	
Common schools:			
Insurance on school buildings and equipment,	$271 63		
Electric lighting,	38 08		
Water rates,	18 64		
Standardization work, approx.,	800 00		
Installation of water service at Blue Point,	80 40		
General expenditures for repairs and upkeep of buildings,	1,284 36		
		$2,493 11	
			$2,658 75
Overdraft,			$83 75

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Resources.

1924.	
Mar. 3. Local taxation,	$75 00

Expenditures.

Fiscal year 1924-1925,	$75 00

EVENING SCHOOL.

Resources.

Unexpended balance,	$377 30

Expenditures.

Inactive during present fiscal year.

Balance,	$377 30

CLUB WORK.

Resources.

1924.	
Mar. 3. Local taxation,	$50 00

Expenditures.

Rent of K. of P. Hall,		$ 5 00	
Supplies for local contest,		2 75	
Cash prizes:			
Boys' Agricultural Club:			
Senior Division,	$11 94		
Junior Division,	6 06		
		$18 00	
Sewing Club:			
Senior Division,	$11 25		
Junior Division,	7 00		
		$18 25	
Cooking Club,		6 00	
			$50 00

Financial Summary, 1924–1925.

	Total Resources.	Total Expenditures.	Balance.	Overdraft.
Common Schools	$13,589 90	$13,274 65	$315 25	
High School	5,809 84	5,809 84		
Textbooks	511 05	511 05		
School Supplies, etc.	488 95	271 36	217 59	
Schoolhouse Supplies and Repairs	2,575 00	2,658 75		$83 75
Physical Education	100 00	72 75	27 25	
Medical Inspection	75 00	75 00		
Evening School	377 30		377 30	
Club Work	50 00	50 00		